



PARK PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

from 2003 Fort Vancouver National Historic Site General Management Plan (GMP)

THE MISSION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS:

"... to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations"
(National Park Service Organic Act, 1916).

PARK PURPOSE

The purpose of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is to preserve and interpret the following:

- The site of the nineteenth century Hudson's Bay Company's activities
- Settlement of the Oregon Country (Became Oregon Territory in 1848)
- The establishment of the U.S. Army's Vancouver Barracks

SIGNIFICANCE OF FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

- From 1825 through 1849 Fort Vancouver was the site of the Hudson's Bay Company's administrative headquarters and supply depot west of the Rocky Mountains. As a result, the HBC greatly influenced the economic, political, and cultural development of the Pacific Northwest.
- Fort Vancouver was the Pacific Northwest center for fur trade and other commerce, agriculture, and industry between 1825 and 1849.
- Fort Vancouver was the first terminus of the Oregon Trail (water route along the Columbia River).
- Vancouver Barracks, established in 1849, was the first military post developed in the Pacific Northwest. It served as headquarters for the U.S. Army operations into the twentieth century.
- Fort Vancouver NHS contains extensive archaeological resources, both in situ and recovered, that provide important information about the physical relationships and the cultural and economic operation of the Hudson's Bay Company and the U.S. Army.



PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE MASTER PLAN

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The National Park Service (NPS) owns and manages Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (NHS). The East and South Vancouver Barracks lie within the legal boundary of the park. Following the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) recommendations from the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Army plans to relocate its operations at Vancouver Barracks. The Army will give up control of the East and South barracks to NPS – including the lands, buildings, and other improvements.

WHY WE NEED TO PLAN

The 2003 General Management Plan (GMP) for the Fort Vancouver NHS provides general guidance for the entire park. It also offers some recommendations for the East and South barracks area. However, conditions have changed since the GMP was adopted. Because the East and South barracks were not owned by NPS at that time, the GMP does not offer enough guidance on the public use and rehabilitation of this area. The National Environmental Policy Act also requires NPS to consider alternative actions and to evaluate the potential impacts they might have on the environment. Therefore, Fort Vancouver NHS is developing the East and South Barracks Master Plan/Environmental Assessment.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the East and South Vancouver Barracks Master Plan is to collaborate with partners, other agencies and the community in order to:

- Establish a comprehensive vision for the rehabilitation and public use of the East and South barracks;
- Determine clear direction for subsequent site design and development; and
- Recommend types of new uses for the site that are compatible with the park, its mission, and the larger Fort Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

Please share your thoughts and opinions with us. Thank you for coming!



ISSUES FOR THE PLAN TO ADDRESS

The project site represents a variety of opportunities and challenges for the plan to address. Below are some of the most important issues for planners to consider:

Historic Structures

- Many buildings on the National Register of Historic Places
- They contain distinctive features that must be preserved

Cultural Landscape

- Site design must respect cultural landscape features
- Historic roads and historic vegetation (Garry oak groves, planted Douglas-firs)
- Opportunity to restore the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) cultural landscape

Archeological Resources

- Abundant archeological resources, including HBC cemetery
- 26 federally recognized tribes maintain ties to Fort Vancouver

Multiple Layers of History

- Many historical periods are represented (e.g., prehistory, HBC, U.S. military history)

Park and Partner Operational Needs

- Adaptive reuse of buildings could fulfill park/partner needs for:
 - administrative (HQ) space
 - maintenance functions
 - new curatorial facility

Appropriate Uses

- Activities and functions in the Barracks must:
 - be appropriate to the historic setting
 - support the mission of the NPS and the Reserve
 - be financially viable in the long-term

Accessibility

- Many buildings are not accessible
- Universal access must be addressed in a way that respects historic character

Environmental Sustainability

- Most buildings are not energy efficient. Infrastructure is aging and outdated
- Upgrades are necessary to improve efficiency and environmental sustainability

Roads

- Existing road network is somewhat confusing and haphazard
- Opportunity to improve vehicular circulation network

Parking

- Opportunity to relocate fort visitor parking
- Some parking will be needed to support use of Barracks
- Parking must not overwhelm the historic setting; creative strategies are needed

Impervious Surfaces

- Opportunity to improve water quality by reducing impervious surfacing

Pedestrian/Bike Circulation

- Potential to improve pedestrian/bike circulation within the project area
- Opportunity to connect with trail networks throughout Reserve and the surrounding community

Development Character

- Opportunity to weave together the East and West Barracks through consistent design elements (e.g., paint scheme, pavement treatments, street lighting) and management

Surrounding Community

- Conveniently located to downtown Vancouver
- Rehabilitated Vancouver Barracks should provide economic and other benefits to the community



A VISION FOR THE VANCOUVER BARRACKS

A vision statement is a concise, compelling expression of what the Vancouver Barracks should be in the future, or what we hope to achieve there. A vision statement provides very broad, overarching direction for management and guides the formation of goals.

Located in a thriving metropolitan area along the Columbia River, the Vancouver Barracks is widely appreciated as an historic destination and a treasured part of its local community. An intricate mosaic of stories and well-preserved structures, landscapes, and archeological resources, the Barracks provides rare opportunities to engage diverse audiences in the dynamic history of the Pacific Northwest. Through the adaptive reuse of historic military structures and a lively mix of educational, commercial, recreational, and cultural activities, the Vancouver Barracks models environmental and cultural stewardship and fosters deep connections between people and place.



GOALS

Goals are descriptive, open-ended, and broad statements of desired future conditions. They define general targets in support of the vision and the park purpose, and they establish parameters for alternatives development.

❖ Cultural Resources

Historic Structures

Historic structures will be preserved through adaptive reuse. All rehabilitation will be conducted in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Public access to, and enjoyment of, historic buildings will be prioritized, with an emphasis on uses that are compatible with historic themes, function, design, and economic viability. The strategic removal of select structures may be considered, following appropriate compliance procedures.

Cultural Landscape

Rehabilitation of the cultural landscape will proceed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties—with an emphasis on preserving historic features. Site design will retain historic landscape patterns and features to the extent possible, such as spatial organization, views, circulation, and vegetation. Addition of new features will be compatible with the historic character of the Barracks.

Archaeological Resources

The in-situ preservation of archaeological sites and materials will be a top priority. When the removal of materials is necessary, excavation and analysis will employ the latest archaeological methodologies in consultation with interested parties and partners. Responsive site design and maintenance will take seriously the preservation of archaeological resources.

Museum Collections

As museum collections expand due to archaeological discoveries and other sources, the tangible history of Vancouver Barracks will be further preserved, interpreted and researched. Appropriate items for acquisition may include photographs, documents, clothing, personal items and other materials associated with the Barracks buildings, soldiers and their families, and other relevant stories.



GOALS (CONTINUED)

❖ **Transportation, Access and Circulation**

Management will promote universal access and alternative means of transportation to the Barracks, including pedestrian, bike, and public transit. Site design will provide the appropriate level of parking, while minimizing harmful effects on natural, cultural, and scenic resources. Circulation networks will be informed by historic conditions and will emphasize connectivity within the Reserve and to the surrounding community.

❖ **Public Use and Enjoyment**

Public use will enliven the East and South barracks through a wide range of visitor opportunities appropriate to the historic setting, which may include themed commercial activities and community events. Public use and enjoyment of the Barracks will foster appreciation for their significance within the larger park and Reserve, and underscore the National Park Service's continuing relevance to diverse audiences.

❖ **Education and Interpretation**

Education and interpretation will be part of every visitor's experience. The experience of the Barracks will be linked to clear interpretive themes, such as prehistoric settlement of the site, the Hudson's Bay Company, and U.S. Army occupation. Wayside exhibits, publications and digital media will encourage a self-guided, contemplative experience of the site, which will connect visitors to its resources and stories.

❖ **Development Character**

New development—which may include historical reconstructions—will be limited, and proposed only if it is essential to public use, enjoyment, and understanding. Design should integrate with historic themes, taking inspiration from historical precedent. Design of signage and other features throughout the Vancouver Barracks will be consistent, facilitating a seamless experience of the entire setting.

❖ **Environmental, Social, and Economic Sustainability**

Rehabilitation of the Vancouver Barracks will promote a sustainable natural, social, and economic environment. New facilities will embody environmentally-friendly practices such as on-site stormwater management and the responsible use of materials and energy. A vibrant Barracks will provide tangible, long-term benefits to the surrounding community.

❖ **Park Operations**

Existing and new facilities in the East and South barracks will support the operations of the National Park Service and other Reserve Partners. Administrative and maintenance functions will be sited with consideration for their impacts on the setting, including factors such as visibility, public access, and adjacent land uses.



KEY TO THE EAST AND SOUTH BARRACKS BUILDINGS

Number	Name	Date Built	Significance	Square Footage
East Barracks				
704	Barber Shop (Currently Offices)	1935	Contributing	1,307
710	Arms Storage	1978	Non Contributing	1,197
721	Gymnasium (currently Auditorium)	1904-1905	Contributing	11,025
722	Mess Hall (currently Army Reserve Recruiting Office)	1914	Contributing	2,030
725	Post Exchange Restaurant (currently Orderly Room)	1914	Contributing	1,955
728	Finance Office (currently Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit Bldg.)	1941	Contributing	5,842
733	Mess Hall	1919	Contributing	2,544
746	Barracks (Currently 104 th Div. Band Training Bldg.)	1940/(mvd. 1946?)	Contributing	4,830
748	Motor Repair Shop (storage vehicle pkg)/vehicle maint. shop – from CMP	1918-1919	Contributing	6,043
749	Storage	1941 (1919?)	Contributing	225
750	Storage	1943 (1919?)	Contributing	227
752	Quartermaster storehouse (currently Post Exchange)	1905-1906	Contributing	13,296
753	Storage (currently Storage)	1917	Contributing	2,704
754	Quartermaster Storehouse (currently Shopette)	1906	Contributing	3,968
786	Work Shop (currently Wood Shop, Red Cross)	1905-1906	Contributing	10,080
787	Garage/Storage Shed		Contributing	300
987	Barracks (currently Offices)	1906-1907	Contributing	32,526
989	Barracks (currently Offices)	1903-1904	Contributing	32,526
991	Post Headquarters (HQ 1 st Brigade 104 th Training Div.)	1905-1906	Contributing	13,215
993	Barracks (currently Offices)	1906-1907	Contributing	32,526
Total SF for East Barracks buildings			Approximately 178,000 sf	
South Barracks				
400	Maintenance Building/Storehouse	1983	Non Contributing	7,280
401	Flammable Materials Storage	1990	Non Contributing	480
402	Maintenance Building/Storehouse	1983	Non Contributing	6,000
404	Maintenance Building/Storehouse	1983	Non Contributing	5,200
405	Maintenance Building/Storehouse	1983	Non Contributing	12,000
409	Flammable Materials Storage	1990	Non Contributing	240
410	Automotive Repair Shop	1935	Contributing	6,925
422	Issue and Receiving Warehouse	1935	Contributing	15,180
Total SF for South Barracks buildings			Approximately 64,000 sf	

Adapted from:

- National Register Nomination Form for Vancouver National Historic Reserve Historic District (2006)
- Cooperative Management Plan, Appendix C: Inventory of Historic Reserve Buildings (2000)

All buildings lie within boundaries of Vancouver National Historic Reserve Historic District.